

TOP SECRET

30 June 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Offie

SUBJECT: Albania

1. I understand from [] that he brought back with him a few items of information concerning the Albanian situation, including two memoranda of conversation which he had with individuals in Italy (a member of the British Embassy and one Del Monte). If Mr. Offie has these memoranda will he please make them available to [].

2. I further understand from [] that the U.S. Military Attache in Rome has been getting himself quite excited about the Albanian situation and has shown signs of wanting to involve himself in this affair. Obviously, he should be told to lay off for the reason that his activities will only overlap, confuse, and interfere with ours. May I assume that G-2 will get off a suitable cable of instructions to the Military Attache in Rome. If such a cable has not already been sent pursuant to Mr. Offie's conversation with Colonel Smith, I think it would be helpful for us to draft the cable and have one of our people discuss it with Colonel Smith.

3. In regard to the conversations which have taken place recently between Mr. Llewellyn Thompson, [] and the former French Minister to Albania, I understand from Mr. Thompson that this man had some very interesting things to say. Mr. Thompson was particularly impressed with his statement to the effect that certain of the Albanians actually recognized that Albania has no possible future as a completely separate and independent country, and that for economic, as well as political reasons, Albania and the Albanians would be much better off if united with or in some manner tied to one of their neighbors, viz, Greece or Yugoslavia. Mr. Thompson did not make it clear just which Albanians felt this way, or how widespread such sentiments might be among the Albanian people at large. (This information is, however, very important, if true. It is in apparent conflict with most of our previous information, which is to the effect that the Albanians are most afraid of annexation, especially by the Greeks, and that the sine qua non of any Albanian liberation movement would be a guarantee against Greek intervention). There were a number of other interesting aspects of this conversation and I think that we should by all means have a full memorandum of what was reported by the Frenchman. Mr. Thompson told me that he would endeavor to prepare a fairly full memorandum of the conversation but that he was so pressed for time currently that he could not say when this would be completed. I believe that [] should follow up on this and see how much he can get from Mr. Thompson, incorporating this information with what he picked up himself.

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